

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep Harry Mitchell today announced that Arizona's Native American Tribes are eligible to compete for stimulus funding through the Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ has made more than \$248 million available for Tribes to address criminal justice needs.

Of the \$248 million in Recovery Act funding available for Tribes, \$225 million is available for Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands grants, \$20.8 million for Indian Tribal Government grants, and \$2.8 million for Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions grants. Congressional District 5, which Mitchell represents, includes two Indian nations: The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

In addition to these funds, Tribes are also eligible to apply for several Department of Justice Recovery Act competitive grant programs that are available to states, local governments and other entities. Application, registration and deadline information are available on the Department's website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/recovery>.

"These Recovery Act funds can help make our communities safer through enhanced correctional facilities, victim safety programs and education and prevention strategies. They also target violent crime against women, including domestic violence and sexual assault," Mitchell said. "Along with new programs and renovated facilities, the funding can also help save and create public safety jobs."

Correctional Facilities grants will assist Tribes in constructing and renovating facilities associated with the incarceration and rehabilitation of juvenile and adult offenders subject to tribal jurisdiction. Additionally, this funding will allow Tribes to explore community-based alternatives to help control and prevent jail overcrowding due to alcohol and other substance abuse.

The Tribal Governments grants will improve response to violent crimes against women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. The program is designed to help federally recognized Tribes use their independent authority to respond to crimes committed against Indian women and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

The Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition grants are for established non-profit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions that address domestic violence and/or sexual assault against American Indian and Alaskan Native women. Funds will be used to hire new staff, service providers and professionals to provide technical assistance, coordinate access to services and develop more comprehensive methods of assisting victims and their families.